

# Compound-Complex Sentences

**7d.** A **compound-complex sentence** contains two or more independent clauses and at least one subordinate clause.

**EXAMPLE** <sup>S</sup> **Matt would have broken** <sup>V</sup> the school record, but <sup>S</sup> **he stumbled** <sup>V</sup> when his right <sup>S</sup> **foot hit** <sup>V</sup> the last hurdle in the race.

**INDEPENDENT CLAUSES** Matt would have broken the school record  
he stumbled

**SUBORDINATE CLAUSE** when his right foot hit the last hurdle in the race

**EXERCISE** In each of the following sentences, draw one line under every independent clause and two lines under every subordinate clause. Then, write S above each subject and V above each verb.

**Example 1.** <sup>S</sup> When Thora Andersen came to this country, <sup>V</sup> she enjoyed her new freedom, but <sup>S</sup> she also worked very hard. <sup>V</sup>

1. Cece went to Chile during the winter vacation, but her older brother stayed home because he had made plans with some friends.
2. When Mr. Tolstoi entered the United States, he knew only a few words of English, but his wife was fluent in the language.
3. The two young men had avoided injuries because they had worn their seat belts, but the driver of the other car was not as fortunate.
4. Vegetarians, who do not eat meat, should watch their diets; they should eat nutritionally balanced meals.
5. Although both were tired, Ahnawake went to her soccer practice, and Carl went to his piano lesson.
6. The two dogs barked at each other constantly until the sun rose; consequently, none of us got much sleep last night.
7. You should shut the gate whenever you leave the backyard; otherwise, the dogs may get out.
8. When we went to the science museum, we attended a lecture on electricity; after the lecture, we visited some of the exhibits.
9. As we left the library, the rain pelted down, so we rushed back inside.
10. Aunt Eudora was born in Nashville, but when she was five years old, she and her family moved to Memphis, where she lived for the rest of her life.